

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2/1/07
437
Big Sandy Activities, Inc.

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February 1, 2007

Re: HB 437

Madame Chair and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Lorrie Merrill and I am the Executive Director of Big Sandy Activities. Thank you for taking time to listen to my testimony. I approach this with some reservation only because I do not want to point fingers or create a negative relationship between our agency and the State. I very much appreciate the support and efforts made by the State Developmental Disabilities Program office in regards of supporting the 21 individuals we serve.

I offer testimony today only because I would like to encourage the development of a process to discuss and air differences between the two contracting parties – the state and community service providers. During this pivotal period of the redesign of the developmental disabilities rates system when all parties are working diligently to provided quality services for the individuals we serve, there comes a time when billing methodology, new billing equations, differences in revenue flow greatly impacts the services provided. This is a crucial time. The provisions in HB 437 provide such an avenue. Some "fair hearing" process, with a neutral third party, would be a necessary step in resolving conflicts of interest helping everyone to put their best foot forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

Lorrie Merrill
Big Sandy Activities